

Torrance, California  
June 3, 1941

MINUTES OF AN ADJOURNED REGULAR  
MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE

The City Council of the City of Torrance convened in an Adjourned Regular Meeting in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Torrance, California, on Tuesday, June 3, 1941 at 5:00 P.M.

Mayor McGuire called the meeting to order.

Clerk Bartlett called the roll, those answering present being Councilmen: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. Absent: Councilmen: None.

Being an adjourned meeting, the regular order of business was dispensed with.

A communication was read from L. J. Gilmeister, Manager Torrance Municipal Bus Lines, advising that Mr. Nelson Hawks, 2318 237th Street, Torrance, has been selected as sixth driver for the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines for driving Sunday and Holiday schedule and for any emergencies that may arise due to illness or other inability of regular drivers to handle runs. It was advised further that, as previously agreed, Mr. Hawkes will be given forty hours per week, and exclusive of his services in the Bus Department, he is to be given other employment with the City of Torrance.

It was suggested that Mr. Albert Treloar, who is employed at the present time between the Bus Department (cleaning busses and checking mechanical parts) and the City of Torrance Custodian Department, be transferred to a full time position with the Custodian Department and that Mr. Hawkes be employed to drive Sunday, Holiday and emergency schedule, and that he perform duties for the Bus Department heretofore performed by Mr. Treloar when not driving; that, during times Mr. Hawkes is driving, Mr. Treloar perform his original duties of cleaning busses and checking mechanical parts.

After short discussion, Councilman Babcock moved that Mr. Hawkes be instructed to report to L. J. Gilmeister June 7, 1941 for instructions to begin work June 9, 1941 and that Mr. Treloar be instructed to report to James Brodie of the Custodian Department for work June 9, 1941. Councilman Powell seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Clerk Bartlett presented and read title to:

RESOLUTION NO. 1453

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE APPROVING SETTLEMENTS OF INDEBTEDNESS IN DISTRICTS CREATED UNDER THE "IMPROVEMENT BOND ACT OF 1915" AND ORDERING THE CANCELLATION OF SAID ASSESSMENTS ON THE BOOKS OF THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that Resolution No. 1453 be adopted. Councilman Babcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Clerk Bartlett presented for final reading:

ORDINANCE NO. 328

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE, CALIFORNIA, GRANTING TO SHELL OIL COMPANY, INCORPORATED, A CORPORATION, A FRANCHISE TO LAY, CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, OPERATE, REPAIR, RENEW, CHANGE THE SIZE OF, AND REMOVE A PIPE LINE FOR THE TRANSPORTATION OF PETROLEUM, OIL, AND LIQUID HYDROCARBON PRODUCTS THEREOF, AND GAS, OR ANY THEREOF, IN, UNDER, ALONG AND ACROSS CERTAIN PUBLIC STREET, HIGHWAYS AND ALLEYS IN SAID CITY.

Councilman Babcock moved that further reading of Ordinance No. 328 be dispensed with. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously.

Councilman Babcock moved that ordinance No. 328 be adopted for final reading. Councilman Hitchcock seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain presented for study tentative maps of the new sub-division in the southerly section of the City of Torrance, near the Municipal Park. He advised that the interested persons had agreed to install sidewalks, gutters and curbs provided the City of Torrance will resurface the streets with rock and oil.

The drainage problem was discussed at great length, Mr. Jain advising that most of the water drains on to the Pacific Electric Railway Company right of way. Mr. Jain suggested that funds be allocated when the 1941-42 budget is set for taking care of the drainage problem in the new subdivision.

Councilman Hitchcock asked Mr. Jain to obtain estimates of cost of material for resurfacing the streets and for drainage facilities.

Councilman Hitchcock moved that the tentative map of the new subdivision, being Tract No. 12881, be approved as submitted. Councilman Murray seconded the motion, which was carried by the following roll call vote: AYES: COUNCILMEN: Babcock, Hitchcock, Murray, Powell and McGuire. NOES: COUNCILMEN: None. ABSENT: COUNCILMEN: None.

Engineer Jain requested the Council to take some action in regard to the Crown Water Company matter, which has been pending for some time. Inasmuch as approximately fifteen residents of North Torrance have had their water supply cut off by collapse of said Water Company, and, Mr. Jain said, the persons affected have called at his office repeatedly assuming that the Council intends to act on the matter, he asked that a definite decision be rendered as to what is to be done, or what can be done in the matter. He said the person who has been supplying water for the fifteen families from his own well since collapse of the Crown Water Company has stated he can furnish water only until June 15, 1941. Mr. Jain pointed out that the predicament of the fifteen families is acute. He advised that it would be necessary for the City of Torrance to expend approximately \$2500.00, regardless of what system is decided upon. He said he had suggested that a well be dug and a pressure tank be put in, inasmuch as a pressure tank will cost approximately the same as an overhead tank, and has the added advantage of giving capacity for increasing and giving fire protection.

Attorney McCall said the problem is an extremely difficult one to solve, inasmuch as the only answer to the problem is a water district to serve not only the fifteen residents, but the entire community, which community, he said, is expected to build up in the near future. He said, however, that the necessary bonds to form a water district could not be sold until the A & I Bonds are lifted from the district, which will likely be done, he continued, in July. He said that \$2500.00 is a large sum to expend for something which would be entirely temporary, if it is decided

to put in the system for which Mr. Jain submitted the estimate. He said the City could clean out the old well or drill another one for a few hundred dollars.

Engineer Jain said that various drillers he had contacted advised that it would be as cheap to drill a new one as to clean out the other one, which probably is not deep enough to serve the purpose, and the casing is gone. He said various pump companies had recommended that a pressure system be installed, which would not cost any more than a new system like the one which has been used heretofore.

Attorney McCall pointed out that if the present system is put back into use, when the anticipated building boom in the vicinity begins, there will be no water for the new residents to draw from, inasmuch as small pipe is in use.

Councilman Hitchcock suggested that the North Torrance residents interested in this matter be advised to form an organization to present their needs to the Council, instead of dealing with individuals and different groups of individuals from time to time. He said if some responsible organization could represent the people, the Council could work with <sup>the</sup> organization and thereby reach some conclusion as to what could be done, and what would be done by the Organization and by the City Council.

Councilman Murray stated the City could operate the company, put in meters and collect the money.

Engineer Jain mentioned the application submitted to the Railroad Commission by the North Torrance Residents. Attorney McCall presented the application, advising that the people had been misinformed as to the proper procedure by someone in the Railroad Commission office; that they had expended a tremendous amount of energy drawing up papers which, he said, are absolutely worthless to them. Engineer Jain said the North Torrance people had set themselves up as a mutual water company and were to charge each user a flat rate and each user would pay the City \$1.00 per month. Mr. Jain said he had suggested that each user take out enough shares, in the proportion of about one share to each fifty feet of property frontage.

Mr. McCall pointed out that, inasmuch as the total income for water used by the fifteen consumers is about \$100.00 per year, the City will naturally lose money if the assets and stock of the Crown Water Company are taken over and an operator placed in charge of the Company. He added that if the pipes started breaking through, the City would be expected to replace them.

Councilman Powell suggested that the people could form a company themselves and be responsible to the City for a certain amount of return on the money expended by the City.

Engineer Jain said, if this suggestion were followed, the people themselves would be expected to replace any pipe lines which may break through.

Mayor McGuire suggested that the City Attorney contact the residents and ascertain what sort of agreement or contract they would be agreeable to signing with the City in the matter.

Attorney McCall advised that it will be necessary for them to dissolve the Crown Water Company and organize a new company, transferring assets of the old company to the new company.

Mr. Greig of the Associated Assessment Engineers presented Attorney Van den Akker at this time, with whom the City of Torrance has of recent date entered into an agreement whereby Mr. Van den Akker will perform necessary legal services in quiet actions in connection with tax deeded lands to be acquired by

